

Message Text

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63

ACTION SWF-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 OIC-02 IO-04 AGR-05 EB-04 AID-05

CIAE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 /034 W

----- 060705

P 312140Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8678

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, AR

SUBJECT: WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE

REF: A. STATE 238804; B. STATE A-7901; C. BA-7909

ROME PASS USDEL WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE

1. ARGENTINE DELEGATION TO WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE (WFC), HEADED BY FOREIGN MINISTER VIGNES, DEPARTED BUENOS AIRES OCT. 30 FOR ROME. AS BOTH REFS A AND B RECEIVED SAME DAY, OCT. 39, EMBASSY WAS UNABLE TO REACH MEMBERS OF DELEGATION IN TIME TO DISCUSS US AND ARGENTINE POSITIONS. IF TIME PERMITS, AMEMBASSY ROME OR USDEL TO WFC MAY BE ABLE TO EXPLAIN US VIEWS TO ARGENTINE DELEGATION PRIOR TO OPENING OF CONFERENCE.

2. RECENTLY NAMED SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK CARLOS ALBERTO EMERY ADDED AT LAST MINUTE TO ARGENTINE DELEGATION REPORTED REF C. EMERY DEPARTED YESTERDAY WITH VIGNES. HE IS UNDERSTOOD TO BE OLD LINE PERONIST AND SERVED AS MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE UNDER PERON FROM 1947-52 (CABINET RE-ORGANIZATION YEAR AGO DOWNGRADED AGRICULTURE MINISTRY TO SECRETARIAT UNDER MINISTRY OF ECONOMY, AND EMERY HAS INDICATED HE INTENDS TO WORK FOR ITS RETURN TO MINISTRY STATUS.) EMERY APPEARS TO BE FAR MORE ACCEPTABLE TO MAJOR ARGENTINE FARM GROUPS THAN HIS PREDECESSOR. UP TO NOW, AGRICULTURAL SECRETARIAT APPEARS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO HAVE PLAYED SECONDARY ROLE TO MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

IN GOA PREPARATIONS FOR WFC.

3. INTERVIEWED ON THEIR DEPARTURE FOR ROME, VIGNES AND EMERY BOTH REPORTEDLY SAID THAT ARGENTINA WOULD TAKE A "HARD" POSITION AT WFC. VIGNES REPORTED TO HAVE EXPRESSED VIEW THAT DEVELOPED COUNTRIES HAVE APPLIED ERRONEOUS POLICIES AND THAT ARGENTINA'S POSITION WOULD BE DISTINCT, AND WOULD REFLECT THE POSITION OF ALL OTHER THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES. EMERY ALSO REFERRED TO MISTREATMENT OF ARGENTINA BY HARD POLICIES OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND SAID HE WAS GOING TO ROME TO FIGHT AND DEFEND ARGENTINA'S FUNDAMENTAL INTERESTS.

4. COMMENT: VIGNES AND EMERY DID NOT SPECIFY WHICH POLICIES AND/OR COUNTRIES ARE TO BE THE INTENDED TARGETS OF THEIR CRITICISM, AND THEIR STATEMENTS AT THW AIRPORT MAY HAVE BEEN MEANT LARGELY FOR LOCAL CONSUMPTION. THEIR MOST LIKELY TARGET IS THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES BEEF PRODUCTION AND IMPORT POLICIES WHICH HAVE DRASTICALLY REDUCED ARGENTINE MEAT EXPORTS THIS YEAR, BUT ARGENTINA MAY ALSO RENEW ITS TRADITIONAL PROTESTS AGAINST US CONCESSIONAL GRAIN SALES.
HILL

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